



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 August 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is



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Daily Highlights

- The Seattle Post Intelligencer reports Seattle's Harbor Island was shut down Wednesday, August 16, and police threw up a 300-yard security perimeter around the terminal while a bomb squad inspected a pair of suspicious Pakistani cargo containers. (See item [19](#))
- The Chicago Tribune reports several handguns have been stolen from bags checked by police officers, military personnel and others on United Airlines flights departing O'Hare International Airport, raising concern that the weapons are loose in what is supposed to be a secure part of the airport. (See item [20](#))
- The Times-Picayune reports Louisiana state and federal officials have agreed to aim for a target goal of 150,000 shelter beds in Louisiana ready for hurricanes that require large evacuations. (See item [30](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 16, Japan Times* — **Blackout points to need for better preparedness.** The blackout Monday, August 14, in Tokyo highlights the need for electrical utilities to devise crisis management steps, according to experts. The outage occurred when a raised crane on a barge

accidentally damaged power lines, cutting off electricity to 1.4 million households and offices and disrupting road and rail services. Experts say Tepco must devise steps to minimize damage from a range of situations. These could include compiling detailed rules for construction firms operating floating cranes. The experts said the utility must introduce a backup system to restore power more quickly. A Tepco official said the damaged cables were strung "at a high enough position," adding the height was determined in consultation with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The experts said that burying the cables could be the safest way to go, though doing so would be expensive. Less than 30 percent of the power lines in areas under Tepco's jurisdiction are below ground.

Source: <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20060816a8.html>

2. *August 15, Age (Australia)* — **Mock gas attack tests security.** Victoria, Australia's emergency services Tuesday, August 15, tested their ability to deal with a major disaster with a mock emergency at a major gas plant. Police, State Emergency Service, and Country Fire Authority officers took part in the exercise, the third of a series of drills aimed at ensuring the state is prepared for a security threat to its energy infrastructure. Energy Minister Theo Theophanous said, "Exercise Wellington is designed to test our preparedness for what we refer to as an intentional interference with a major piece of infrastructure, which in this case is designed around the Longford gas plant." The Longford plant experienced an explosion and fire that killed two workers and injured eight on September 1998. For two weeks, gas supplies were severely affected, and prioritized to essential services only, such as hospitals. About 1.3 million households and 89,000 businesses were affected by the disaster. Theophanous said the exercise, which will involve about 100 people, was designed to test the lines of communication between the government and agencies, assess security during times of heightened threat levels, and clarify responsibilities.

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/mock-gas-attack-tests-security/2006/08/15/1155407794580.html>

3. *August 15, Reuters* — **Four oil workers freed in Nigeria.** Two Norwegian and two Ukrainian oil workers being held hostage in Nigeria were freed on Tuesday, August 15, as the government promised to crack down on a surge in unrest in Africa's largest oil producer. About 16 foreign oil workers have been kidnapped in five separate abductions in the past two weeks in the oil-producing Niger Delta. Nine have been released. President Obasanjo directed the military and police to start round-the-clock patrols of the creeks. He also threatened to sanction companies caught paying ransoms, a practice which analysts say has fueled the violence. The threat to clamp down on kidnapping appeared to signal a change in the government's stance toward a recent upsurge in violence in its southern oil heartland. A series of attacks and kidnappings has occurred since the beginning of the year by a new militant group demanding more local control over the delta. Those attacks forced Royal Dutch Shell to shut about 500,000 barrels per day of oil production, almost a quarter of the capacity of the OPEC member nation.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060815/wl_nm/nigeria_kidnap_dc_4

4. *August 15, Associated Press* — **Force majeure: Tool for oil companies?** Some analysts are questioning whether Exxon Mobil Corp. and ConocoPhillips Co. can legitimately blame events beyond their control for failing to supply customers following the partial shutdown of Prudhoe Bay oil field. The contractual clause, force majeure, that excuses a company from fulfilling its obligations is usually exercised following a natural disaster or in war. Neither was the case

when the two oil companies invoked it last week after field operator BP said it would shut down part of the nation's largest oil field because of pipeline corrosion that had gone undetected for years. If BP was negligent, does this really qualify as an unforeseen circumstance? The legal clause received a great deal of attention after hurricanes Katrina and Rita slammed the Gulf Coast last year. The hurricanes temporarily shut down 28 percent of the country's refining capacity. It was a natural case for the clause. Time will tell whether Prudhoe Bay is viewed the same way. "There are often questions raised as to whether one could have taken steps to avoid circumstances they claim to be force majeure," Pat Martin, law professor at Louisiana State University, said.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/fn/4120126.html>

5. *August 15, WCCO-4 (MN)* — **Computer chip could help save power grid.** For years, Xcel Energy has pleaded with customers to wash clothes and dishes at night in order to reduce stress on the daytime electric grid. Some customers use a Saver's Switch that allows Xcel to cycle their air conditioner on and off at 15 minute intervals. Now researchers want to take that technology one step further. In a program called Gridwise, computer chips have been designed to give those appliances a brain, telling them to shut off and on again during a power crunch. They are being tested on dishwashers, coffeemakers, and water heaters. The chips cost \$1 when they are built in bulk. The goal is to have them installed in most appliances within five years. Researchers think the chips could help cut power needs by up to 20 percent.

Source: http://wcco.com/consumer/local_story_227093518.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *August 16, Aviation Now* — **FCS completes major review, prepares for platform-level exams.** The Army's Future Combat Systems (FCS) program has held its week-long initial preliminary design review (IPDR), clearing the way for the platform-level PDRs that will begin later this year. FCS is developing 18 new manned and unmanned systems that will support the Army's future brigade. With almost 1,000 industry and government personnel in attendance last week in St. Louis, MO, the IPDR was the program's most important technical milestone to date and its biggest review of the year. The IPDR reviewed progress in requirements, design, building, integration and test; assessed each platform's readiness to proceed to preliminary design; and provided a two-year road map for the program's System-of-Systems Preliminary Design Review in 2008. Within a year, FCS capabilities will be integrated into the current force through the FCS program's Evaluation Brigade Combat Team.

Source: http://www.aviationnow.com/avnow/news/channel_aerospacedaily_story.jsp?id=news/FCS08166.xml

7. *August 16, Federal Computer Week* — **New information culture needed to fight the war on terrorism.** The military must jettison its longstanding concepts regarding information ownership and adapt information technology systems that meet the new threats, according to a speaker at the Air Force IT conference. “We have to build a culture that is gathering that kind of information and making it available to commanders in the field,” said Gen. Lance Smith, commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command. Military information management must become more decentralized and agile, Smith said. U.S. forces must get inside the enemy’s decision cycle by pushing information and decision-making down to the squad or company level, he added. The structure of terrorist organizations requires a new approach, Smith said. Terrorist groups operate at the cellular level, with only broad guidance from their command structure. Terrorist cells have a short decision-making cycle, so they can act on intelligence quickly, he noted. “We cannot operate against [the terrorists] until we give our guys out there fighting in the field the same capability, as much information as we can and the authority to act on that information in real time,” Smith said.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/article95678-08-16-06-Web>

8. *August 14, U.S. Aerospace Industries Association* — **Aerospace orders, shipments, backlog on record pace.** Aerospace industry orders, shipments, and backlog showed significant gains in the first half of 2006, which would put the sector ahead of last year's record-setting numbers if the trend continues. Manufacturers of civil aviation and defense products booked \$116 billion in orders during the first two quarters of this year, which, projected to an annual figure of \$233 billion. Similarly, industry shipments totaled \$88 billion in the first six months of the year, which is on pace to total \$177 billion. Defense shipments are on pace to increase for the sixth-straight year.

For more information, see Series 26ABC at:

http://www.aia-aerospace.org/stats/aero_stats/aero_stats.cfm

Source: http://www.aia-aerospace.org/aianews/pr_detail.cfm?Content_ID=294

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *August 16, Courier-Journal (KY)* — **University of Kentucky again releases private student information.** The Social Security numbers of about 710 University of Kentucky (UK) students were accidentally released publicly in two separate incidents recently, school officials said Tuesday, August 15. In one of the most recent incidents, the names and Social Security numbers of 626 students were posted on UK's financial-aid Website between Friday, August 11, and Monday, August 14, University spokesman Jay Blanton said. The second incident occurred Monday afternoon when about 80 geography students were sent an e-mail about their academic adviser. It inadvertently listed Social Security numbers, which are also used at UK as student identification numbers, Blanton said.

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060816/NEWS0104/608160535/1008/NEWS01>

10. *August 15, Government Technology* — **New e-mail phishing scams in Arizona use bank logos.** Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard warned consumers about a new phishing scam circulating in the Phoenix area. Consumers have notified Goddard's office of e-mails

requesting personal identifying information using Chase Bank and Wells Fargo logos. The Wells Fargo e-mail tells recipients that their Wells Fargo account information must be updated "as part of our continuing commitment to protect your account and reduce the instances of fraud on our Website." The Chase Bank e-mail tells recipients the bank will deactivate and delete CHASE online Payments and Transfer services unless they "renew" their account information.

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=100579>

11. *August 15, Kalamazoo Gazette (MI)* — **Internet scam targets church.** The FBI is investigating an Internet identity-theft scam in which money was stolen from a parish account at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Portage, MI, according to officials at the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo. The church declined to disclose how much money is involved in the theft or to provide specifics of the scheme for fear of jeopardizing the FBI probe, said Brent King, director of communications for the diocese. "This involves account numbers that were taken...When the thieves tried to use them, it threw up red flags," King said, and the parish notified authorities.

Source: <http://www.mlive.com/news/kzgazette/index.ssf?/base/news-19/1155655306144800.xml&coll=7>

12. *August 15, Consumer Affairs* — **Dial-up users face "modem hijacking" risk.** Consumers using a dial-up Internet connection not only have to put up with painfully slow connection speeds, they also face the risk of "modem hijacking," resulting in hundreds of dollars in unauthorized charges. Even by inadvertently clicking on a popup, users can be disconnected from the Internet and then reconnected using international or premium rate phone exchanges.

Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2006/08/modem_hijackin_g.html

13. *August 15, U.S. Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury designates two Syrian officials.** The U.S. Department of the Treasury today named two individuals Specially Designated Nationals (SDNs) of Syria pursuant to Executive Order 13338, which is aimed at financially isolating individuals and entities that are directly or significantly contributing to Syria's support for designated terrorist groups, or its military or security presence in Lebanon, or that are acting for or on behalf of other SDNs of Syria. Major General Hisham Ikhtiyar has been designated for significantly contributing to the Syrian Government's support for designated terrorist organizations, including Hizballah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ). Additionally, the Treasury designated today Brigadier General Jama'a Jama'a, who significantly contributed to the Syrian Government's military and security presence in Lebanon while serving as commander at the Syrian Military Intelligence (SMI) headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon. Today's designation freezes any assets the designees may have located in the United States, and prohibits U.S. persons from engaging in transactions with these individuals.

Click the following link for the full text of E.O. 13338:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/05/20040511-6.h tml>

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp60.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

14. *August 16, Washington Times* — District hires firm to study rerouting hazardous cargo.

The Washington, DC, Department of Transportation has hired an engineering firm to evaluate the feasibility of building a rail route around the city for carrying hazardous materials. Parsons Brinckerhoff was hired through a \$1 million Department of Homeland Security grant to study the best route for the rail line and analyze benefits and costs in a report due by early next year. "It's the first step in what would be a very big project," said David Zaidain, project manager for the National Capital Planning Commission, the federal government's planning agency for the Washington area. Options include building a rail line around the city, rerouting rail traffic onto existing freight lines or reactivating unused railroad rights of way that run north and south of Washington. No officials would speculate on the most likely option. The DC Council enacted a ban in January 2005 on hazardous material shipments within 2.2 miles of the Capitol. It was opposed by CSX Transportation, which owns the rail line through the District, in a lawsuit that is scheduled for a trial as soon as the fall. Meanwhile, rail shipments continue through the city, but the railroad says it has rerouted tank cars carrying chlorine.

Source: <http://www.washtimes.com/business/20060816-121337-6522r.htm>

15. *August 16, Associated Press* — Man, boy bypass London's Gatwick Airport security. Police briefly detained a man after he attempted to board an aircraft at Gatwick Airport to retrieve a lost wallet, authorities said Wednesday, August 16, one day after a 12-year-old boy got on a plane without a ticket or a passport. The incidents raised new concerns over airport security because the man had managed to bypass heightened security measures at London's second-largest airport. The boy was detected by the cabin crew before the flight took off.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/1103AP_Britain_Airport_Security.html

16. *August 16, WNBC (NY)* — Flight from London diverted to Boston. A United Airlines flight from London to Washington, DC, was diverted to Boston on Wednesday, August 16, when at least one passenger on board became unruly, according to federal authorities. Federal security officials said Flight 923, which had 194 passengers on board, landed safely at Boston's Logan International Airport at about 10:20 a.m. EDT after the captain declared an in-flight emergency following some kind of altercation. Two fighter jets escorted the aircraft to Logan, an official said.

Source: <http://www.wnbc.com/news/9687799/detail.html>

17. *August 16, Times Record (AR)* — Security concern delays local flight. A "security concern" that caused a flight delay at the Fort Smith Regional Airport, at Fort Smith, AR, on Monday, August 14, was turned over to the FBI for investigation, authorities said. About 1 p.m. CDT the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) received information about a possible threat related to an American Eagle flight scheduled to leave for Dallas at 1:34 p.m., said Jerry Henderson, TSA's federal security director. "As an added precaution, we re-screened all passengers and luggage," Henderson said. A second look was given to both carry-on and cargo luggage, which had to be off-loaded from the plane. Henderson, whose Little Rock office is responsible for security at all Arkansas airports, said security measures were heightened in the past week after a terrorist plot was alleged to target London's Heathrow Airport.

Source: <http://www.swtimes.com/articles/2006/08/16/news/news09.txt>

18.

August 16, Washington Post — **Regulators look to plug holes in pipeline rules.** Even as BP PLC works to patch up its image and its leaky Alaska pipelines, Congress and federal officials are trying to figure out how to plug the holes in petroleum pipeline regulations. BP's 22 miles of transit pipelines carried eight percent of the nation's crude oil, but they were not subject to the same Department of Transportation requirements as other pipelines. Those requirements exempt pipelines that operate at low pressure in rural areas and far from commercially navigable waters. BP has admitted that it let as much as 14 years lapse without using cleaning and diagnostic devices known as "pigs" in key transit pipelines, but didn't violate any federal regulations. Thomas Barrett, head of the Transportation Department's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration says that the maintenance of the BP pipelines was "well below the standard of care I would expect from a company like BP — regulations or not." He said his agency would soon propose new rules to cover low-pressure lines like these near sensitive areas. Barrett said the new rules would govern 966 miles of low-stress lines and 625 of lines that begin at the wells, or 22 percent of the currently unregulated low-stress pipelines, all in rural areas.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/15/AR2006081501108.html>

19. *August 16, Seattle Post Intelligencer* — Port terminal evacuated over possible bomb.

Terminal 18 on Seattle's Harbor Island was shut down Wednesday, August 16, and police threw up a 300-yard security perimeter around the terminal while a bomb squad inspected a pair of Pakistani cargo containers. No explosives were found. The containers had been set aside for routine inspection based on a computerized targeting system that chooses potential security threats. The system targets ships based on factors such as country of origin, consignee and contents as listed in the bill of lading, said Mike Milne, a spokesperson with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). When CBP officers conducted a routine X-ray examination of the cargo, they discovered unspecified anomalies. The container was supposed to hold oily rags but inspectors found objects that were not in the listed inventory. The Port of Seattle bomb squad was called to the scene to inspect the containers. Small explosive charges were used to force open the containers, Milne said. The containers, owned by China Ocean Shipping Co., had crossed the Pacific aboard a vessel named the Rotterdam via a circuitous route from Pakistan that included calls at Hong Kong, Shanghai and Pusan, Korea before arriving in Seattle on Monday.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/281443_terminal17ww.html

20. *August 14, Chicago Tribune* — Guns at O'Hare are disappearing. Several handguns have been stolen from bags checked by police officers, military personnel and others on United Airlines flights departing O'Hare International Airport, sparking concern that the weapons are loose in what is supposed to be a secure part of the airport. Since the beginning of the year, there have been "a handful" of firearm thefts from luggage being handled by United airlines personnel, Chicago police spokesperson Monique Bond said. Bags containing guns also have disappeared, authorities said. News of an investigation surfaced days after new security restrictions were placed on airports across the nation in the wake of British authorities foiling what they said was a plot to blow up U.S.-bound airplanes. Aviation security experts said stealing from checked luggage long has been a problem at many airports and that guns are a favored target because they are easy to smuggle out and easy to sell. Still another concern is that putting something into a bag could be just as easy as taking an item out, experts said. "It's a

problem at every airline and every airport," said aviation security consultant Douglas Laird. "Nobody has ever really resolved a real way around it," Laird said. "There's a real dilemma with baggage theft in the airline industry."

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0608140200aug14.1.2838681.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed&ctrack=1 &cset=true>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

21. *August 15, Stop Soybean Rust News* — **Soybean rust found in Louisiana.** On Friday, August 11, 2006, Asian soybean rust was found in a sentinel plot of soybeans in Natchitoches, LA. This is the first report of rust for this county and this is the northernmost confirmation of infected soybeans in Louisiana. Currently rust has been found on this year's soybeans in 10 different counties in five states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi); the rest of the finds have been on kudzu. A total of 30 counties have reported rust this year and include five in Alabama, 13 in Florida, six in Georgia, four in Louisiana, one in Texas, and one in Mississippi. Spore trapping continues throughout the U.S. using both active and passive traps. Source: <http://www.stopsoybeanrust.com/viewStory.asp?StoryID=915>

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Food Sector

22. *August 16, Chosun (South Korea)* — **Korea halts U.S. chicken imports over bird flu fears.** The Ministry of Agriculture has halted imports of U.S. chicken after a bird flu case was confirmed in the state of Michigan, the ministry said Wednesday, August 16. The Agriculture Ministry will ban imports of chicken from the U.S if the strain is found virulent. Source: <http://english.chosun.com/w21data/html/news/200608/200608160.017.html>
23. *August 15, AgProfessional* — **Japan approves beef facility for export.** The Japanese Agriculture Ministry has approved a California-based meatpacker to resume beef exports to Japan. The approval increases the list of U.S. packing plants allowed to ship meat to Japan at 35. Japan announced on July 27 an easing of its import ban of U.S. beef over mad cow disease fears with sales of U.S. beef resuming August 7. Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=42627

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

24. *August 16, Reuters* — **Immunization gaps linked to China polio outbreak.** A group of Chinese scientists has linked a 2004 outbreak of polio in an impoverished Chinese province to gaps in China's Immunization program, according to a study to be published in September. The scientists recommend more widespread Immunization of China's population as well as an end to the use of vaccines containing live but weakened strains of the polio virus. In the outbreak in southern Guizhou in mid-2004, six children, who had not been immunized, were left paralyzed. Experts suspect they might have contracted the virus from other children who had been immunized with a live, but weakened form of the polio virus. Oral polio vaccines containing live but weakened virus are used in many countries, partly because they are cheaper than their alternative, which contains a polio virus that is inactive. But live-virus vaccine can cause sporadic cases of polio, either from the vaccine itself, or from the live virus in the vaccine getting out into the community. Guizhou had an immunization rate of only 72 percent when the researchers moved in to investigate in 2004. The researchers warned that the risk of polio outbreaks in China may increase in future because of a reduction in annual immunization campaigns.

Source: http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyID=2006-08-16T091020Z_01_HKG72012_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-CHINA-POLIO-DC.XML&archived=False

25. *August 16, Los Angeles Times* — **Another California resident dies from hantavirus.** A Los Angeles County resident has become the second Californian to die from a hantavirus infection in the last two months. A youth living in the Antelope Valley died August 6 of respiratory failure due to the virus. Another Los Angeles County resident, a 52-year-old man, died in July from hantavirus pulmonary syndrome after camping with his family in Mono County near the Nevada state line.

Hantavirus information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hanta/hps/index.htm>

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/california/la-me-briefs16.2aug16.1.2128457.story?coll=la-headlines-pe-california>

26. *August 16, Xinhua (China)* — **One third deaths unreported by Chinese hospitals.** About one third of deaths occurring in Chinese hospitals are not reported to health authorities, a survey conducted by the Ministry of Health revealed on Wednesday, August 16. Chinese medical institutes above county level have been required to report deaths since April 2004. But about 20 percent of hospitals still have no direct death reporting network, according to the survey carried out last November and December in 130 above-county-level medical institutes throughout the country. It also found that more than 70 percent of death reports were delayed getting to health authorities. Most of the delayed or missing reports were deaths from unknown causes or unproved pneumonia.

Source: http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-08/16/content_666551.htm

27.

August 15, Reuters — **Bird flu kills ducks in China.** About 1,800 ducks have died from bird flu at a farm in central China and more than 210,000 have been culled. A total of 1,805 ducks have died at the farm in Changsha, capital of Hunan province, since the first poultry death was reported on August 4. About 217,000 ducks at the farm have been culled. A national laboratory confirmed on Monday, August 14, the ducks had died from the H5N1 bird flu virus. About 40 bird flu outbreaks in poultry have been reported in a dozen Chinese provinces in the past year. Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK199570.htm>

28. *August 15, Agence France–Presse* — **Four million health workers needed to face AIDS crisis.** Developing countries that are worst hit by AIDS need more than four million health workers to help cope with the crisis, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated. The crippling shortage of doctors, nurses and other caregivers has been spurred by a brain drain of talent to richer countries but also by death among health workers from AIDS itself, it said. Sub-Saharan Africa, home to around two-thirds of the nearly 39 million people living with AIDS or the virus that causes it, faces the severest shortage. In a blueprint presented at the 16th International AIDS Conference, the WHO said that tackling the personnel shortfall would cost a minimum of \$7.2 billion over the next five years in the 60 countries with the highest burden of HIV. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060816/hl_afp/healthaidsworke swho_060816001428

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *August 16, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **Federal Emergency Management Agency National Situation Update.** Tropical Activity: Atlantic/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Sea: Slow formation of a tropical depression several hundred miles southeast of the Carolinas is possible during the next couple of days. In addition, a large cluster of showers and thunderstorms developed in the northern Gulf of Mexico Tuesday, August 15, and raised concerns about the potential for tropical development. This convection has trended towards weakening, however. Eastern Pacific: The National Hurricane Center has begun issuing advisories on newly-formed Tropical Depression 9–E, a cluster of showers and thunderstorms centered approximately 750 miles SSW of the southern tip of Baja, CA. Initial intensity is set at 34.5 mph. The forecast calls for this cyclone to intensify over the next several days (its name would be Gilma), it is expected to continue to move westward, away from land. Earthquake Activity: A strong earthquake, preliminary magnitude 6.0, occurred in the Rat Islands Region of the Aleutian Islands, AK, on Tuesday, August 15. To view other Situation Updates: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm> Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2006/nat081606.shtm>

30.

August 16, Times–Picayune (LA) — **Louisiana plans 150,000 shelter spots.** After weeks of wrangling, state and federal officials have agreed to try to have 150,000 shelter beds in Louisiana ready for hurricanes that require large evacuations. About 93,000 spaces are already lined up. Exactly how many in–state shelters should be opened for a hurricane evacuation has been a point of contention between state and federal emergency preparedness officials. Federal officials have emphasized that they can't ask other states to help out with shelters if Louisiana doesn't provide the maximum assistance to its own residents. However, the state's top emergency preparedness official last week expressed skepticism that there was enough capacity in Louisiana to reach the target goal of 150,000 beds set by the federal government. But Gil Jamieson, the Department of Homeland Security's principal federal official in Louisiana, said Monday, August 14, that all the agencies involved are now working off the same lists and trying to reach the same bed threshold. Plus, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has agreed to help get personnel needed to open the shelters. State officials had emphasized that finding staff was key to expanding the number of shelter beds.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-6/1155709500219710.xml&coll=1>

31. *August 15, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **President declares major disaster for Texas.** The head of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Tuesday, August 15, that federal disaster aid has been made available for the State of Texas to help people and communities recover from the effects of flooding beginning on July 31, and continuing.

For further detail: <http://www.fema.gov/news/event.fema?id=6825>

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=28884>

32. *August 15, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — **FEMA hosts emergency management meeting with New England Adjutant Generals.** In the first meeting of its kind, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hosted a meeting of all six New England Adjutant Generals to discuss the region's emergency preparedness and plans for all–hazards response. In addition to the Adjutant Generals, The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), 5th Army, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) were represented and discussed their roles and activities regarding emergency management. “Getting everyone in the same room and on the same page only strengthens the New England region for natural disasters and terrorism,” said Arthur Cleaves, FEMA Regional Director. The meeting took place Wednesday, August 16, at the Federal Regional Center in Maynard, MA. Some of the topics discussed include FEMA's, USCG's and 5th Army's response to an event, the 1938 Hurricane and the impact a hurricane would have on New England in 2006, evacuations, mass care and sheltering and a health and medical strategy when responding to an incident.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=28878>

33. *August 15, Medford News (OR)* — **Oregon Civil Air Patrol, USGS to conduct seismic survey exercise.** The Oregon Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), will be participating in a six state seismic survey event the weekend of August 25–27 with the main body of the exercise occurring Saturday, 26 August. The seismic survey event will be part of a national program to better understand local seismic danger spots and practice emergency response to a major seismic event in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon CAP will be utilizing its new Satellite Digital Imaging System to provide

aerial photography capabilities. While the event is simulated, actual targets will be points of real interest and photos taken will be used for USGS research.

Source: <http://www.medfordnews.com/articles/index.cfm?artOID=332118&cp=10996>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

34. *August 16, Sophos* — Bogus BBC news report says Berlusconi dead, spreads Trojan horse.

Sophos has warned of a Trojan horse that has been spammed out to e-mail addresses disguised as a breaking news report that Silvio Berlusconi has been killed by an Israeli soldier. The Troj/Dloadr-ALM Trojan horse has been spammed out in e-mail messages claiming to come from bbc.italy2006@bbc.com, which can have a variety of subject lines including "Berlusconi la morte," "Berlusconi di terrorismo," "Berlusconi Tragedia," and "Berlusconi di omicidio." Attached to the e-mail is a file called [necfotos.zip](#), which contains an image of Berlusconi ([silvio01.gif](#)) and a malicious PIF file ([silvio02.pif](#)). "The news report is — of course — false, and launching the file will not show you a picture of Senor Berlusconi, but instead execute malicious code on your Windows PC," said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at Sophos.

Source: <http://www.sophos.com/pressoffice/news/articles/2006/08/berlusconi.html>

35. *August 15, Security Focus* — Microsoft Internet Explorer CHTSKDIC.DLL

denial-of-service vulnerability. Microsoft Internet Explorer is prone to a denial-of-service vulnerability because the application fails to load a DLL library when instantiated as an ActiveX control. An attacker may exploit this issue to crash Internet Explorer, effectively denying service to legitimate users and may cause arbitrary code to run within the context of the user running the application.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19529/info>

Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19529/references>

36. *August 15, Security Focus* — Microsoft Windows PNG File IHDR Block denial-of-service vulnerability.

Microsoft Windows is reportedly prone to a remote denial-of-service vulnerability because the PNG-rendering portion of the operating system fails to handle malicious Portable Network Graphics (PNG) files. This issue may cause Windows Explorer to consume excessive resources and crash, denying service to legitimate users.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19520/info>

Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19520/references>

37. *August 15, Security Focus* — Mozilla Firefox JavaScript Handler race condition memory corruption vulnerability.

Mozilla Firefox is prone to a remote memory-corruption vulnerability. This issue is due to a race condition that may result in double-free or other memory-corruption issues. Attackers may likely exploit this issue to execute arbitrary machine code in the context of the vulnerable application, but this has not been confirmed. Failed exploit attempts will likely crash the application. Mozilla Firefox is vulnerable to this issue. Due to

code-reuse, other Mozilla products are also likely affected.

For a complete list of vulnerable products: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19488/info>

Solution: Currently, Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/19488/references>

38. *August 15, Government Computer News* — **Chinese seek military ID information.** The Pentagon's primary Internet backbone, the Global Information Grid, comes under siege some 3 million times a day by outsiders looking for a way to penetrate military networks. Maj. Gen. William Lord, director of information, services and integration in the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer, told an audience of civilian Air Force personnel attending the Air Force IT Conference that "China has downloaded 10 to 20 terabytes of data from the NIPRNet. They're looking for your identity, so they can get into the network as you." Lord said that this is in accordance with the Chinese doctrine about the use of cyberspace in conflict. Lord said that the Air Force Research Laboratories are undertaking projects to mitigate the threat, possibly to look at offensive actions that could be launched, but "the rules of engagement have to change before we're fully engaged in cyberspace."

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/41669-1.html

39. *August 15, CNET News* — **Microsoft patch can cause IE trouble.** Microsoft's security update from August 8 to Internet Explorer (IE) is causing browser trouble for some systems. After people apply the MS06-042 update, rated "critical" by Microsoft, IE may crash when certain Websites are viewed, the company said in a notice on its customer support Website. The problem affects IE 6 with Service Pack 1 on Windows XP and Windows 2000 systems. The problem occurs when IE users view Websites that use version 1.1 of HTTP alongside compression, according to Microsoft's notice. Microsoft plans to re-release the bulletin and patch on Tuesday, August 22, for all affected users.

Microsoft notice: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/923762/en-us>

MS06-042 Update: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms06-042.mspx>

Source: http://news.com.com/Microsoft+patch+can+cause+IE+trouble/2100-1002_3-6106039.html?tag=cd.top

40. *August 15, Computer World* — **Cisco can't reproduce Black Hat flaw.** Cisco Systems Inc. has been unable to reproduce a security flaw reported in its PIX firewall appliance earlier this month, the networking company said Tuesday, August 15. The alleged vulnerability was discovered by Hendrik Scholz, a developer with Freenet Cityline GmbH, who discussed it during an August 2 presentation at the Black Hat USA conference in Las Vegas. Scholz claimed that if someone sent the PIX device a specially crafted Session Initiation Protocol message, the firewall would then allow attackers to send traffic to any device on the network. "We've had engineers both within the business unit and within our PSIRT organization looking into this," said John Noh, a Cisco spokesperson. "We have not been able to replicate what he claims he has discovered."

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9002482>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports

1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 25 (smtp), 32790 (---),
445 (microsoft-ds), 57715 (---), 113 (auth), 6346
(gnutella-svc), 80 (www), 1433 (ms-sql-s)

Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

41. *August 16, Sedalia Democrat (MO)* — **Safety is highest priority for state fair.** It is likely that a trip down the Missouri State Fair Midway will offer safe, family fun. State inspections ensure safe carnival rides. Amusement ride owners' drug testing policies and occasional background checks on carnival workers make for better personal security. Another aspect to carnival safety is personal protection. Gene Sorrows, a former carnie turned carnival expert, said serial killers, child molesters, and rapists often seek refuge with amusement companies. Sorrows, of Plantation, FL, wrote a book, "Carnie Secrets," about criminals working at carnivals. "Background checks are very, very important," Sorrows said.
Source: <http://www.sedaliademocrat.com/News/290739619080625.htm>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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